

In support of SB 1095

February 23, 2023

Dear Chairs Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, and members of the housing committee:

My name is Brett Foster. I am a resident of Waterbury, Connecticut. I am also an ally of the Connecticut Justice Alliance. I am testifying in support of S.B. 1095: An Act Concerning the Use of School Resource Officers In Connecticut Schools.

All students deserve to feel safe, secure and supported in their places of learning. Yet too often our schools rely on policing to keep children in line, rather than funding professionals trained to deliver students necessary developmental and behavioral health resources.

According to research by [Connecticut Voices for Children](#), there's no evidence School Resource Officers (SROs) make students or staff safer, but schools with SROs have more arrests and more expulsions than their peer institutions without SROs.

There is a heavy over reliance on police and law enforcement to help address child behavior, emotions, or actions. Instead, we should be investing in a team of professionals that are rooted in the communities they serve and reflect the population that they support.

I strongly support S.B. 1095. I hope the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will vote in favor of this bill. Together, we can build an educational system that is centered on the social-emotional well-being of students through care, resources, learning, and restoration.

Thank you for your time,

Brett Foster